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LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 8 a.m. on 19 March 1997 two American frigates (33 and 40) were seen conducting manoeuvres 3 miles south of the port of El Bakr. The same day, at 10.30 a.m., a United States helicopter overflew Iraqi vessels which were close to buoy No. 5. Also on the same day, at 11.30 a.m., a United States helicopter overflew an Iraqi fishing boat, the "Diyali", which was also sailing close to that buoy.

I should be grateful if you would intervene with the United States of America with a view to halting these repeated acts of provocation which not only contravene the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law but also constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations.

I also wish to affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the principles of international responsibility, to seek compensation for the damage caused by these violations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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